

CLAIMS

1. An X-strap assembly for securing an article of footwear to the instep of a foot, said footwear having a sole and channel through said sole, said strap assembly comprising:

5 a) a strap (1) attached at its respective ends (3, 11) to medial and lateral heel sides (5, 9) of said footwear, said strap (1) having a first portion extending in a forward direction transversely across the instep from a first side of said footwear to a second side, a second portion extending through said channel, and a third portion extending in a rearward direction transversely across the instep from said instep from said first side to said second side 10 of said footwear, said first and said third portions forming an X-configuration over said instep; and

15 b) a fastener (23, 25) attached to said strap.

2. An article of footwear, comprising:

15 a) a sole (51), the sole having a midfoot portion and a heel portion;

16 b) a channel (47) extending transversely across the midfoot portion of said sole;

20 c) an instep strap (41) connected to said heel portion of said sole (51), said strap (41) having a first portion extending in a forward direction transversely across a wearer's instep from one side of said sole (51) to the other, a second portion extending through said channel (47) and slideable within said channel (47), and a third portion extending in a rearward direction transversely across the wearer's instep from said one side to said other side of said sole, the first and third portions of said strap forming an X configuration over the wearer's instep, and the second portion being between the first and third portions of said strap (41); and

25 d) an adjustable fastener (55) attached to said strap (41) for adjusting said strap.

3. An article of footwear as in claim 2, wherein said midfoot portion of said sole (51) includes a shank (114), said shank at least partly underlying said sole (51), said shank being stiffer than said sole (51), said channel (47) extending through said shank (114).

4. An article of footwear, as in claim 3, wherein said channel (47) is angled downwardly from rear to front in a longitudinal direction;

5. An article of footwear as in claim 4 further comprising a heel portion strap assembly (59), a forefoot strap assembly (69) and a lateral strap (59) extending therebetween.

6. A footwear product to be worn by a user on the user's foot, comprising:

5 a) a sole (51);
b) a transverse passageway (47) extending through said sole (51); and
c) a strap system configured to secure the footwear product to the user's

foot including:

a heel portion (59),

10 an X-strap assembly coupled to said heel portion, wherein said X-strap assembly includes a continuous strap (41) having a first portion extending transversely across the user's instep from a first side of the footwear to a second side, a second portion extending through said transverse passageway (47), and a third portion extending transversely across the user's instep from said first side to said second side of said footwear, said first and said third 15 portions of said X-strap assembly forming an X-configuration over the user's instep, and
an adjustable fastener (55) for adjusting the length of said X-strap assembly.